

# THE LIFE OF THOMAS JEFFERSON.

## SCHOOL AND COLLEGE DAYS.

THOMAS JEFFERSON was born on the thirteenth day of April, 1743, at the homestead of Shadwell, near the city of Charlottesville, Albemarle County, Virginia. His father, Peter Jefferson, was a farmer, prosperous, strong in body, intellectual, and capable of public spirit. His mother was Anne Randolph, a refined and accomplished daughter of Isham Randolph, a worthy representative of the powerful family whose name he bore. Thus from both father and mother Jefferson was fortunate in his personal inheritance: big bones, well-knit muscles, a quick understanding, gentle instincts, and high social position.

The education of young Jefferson was attended by such happy circumstances that in after life he was constrained to say that, if he were called upon to choose between the large estate left him by his father and the education given to him, he would without hesitation choose the latter. At the age of five he was sent to school at Tuckahoe, a temporary residence of his family, where he learned the rudiments of English and was practiced in psalms and in the prayers and collects of the liturgy of the Episcopal Church. At the age of nine he was placed under the care of the Rev. William Douglas, a Scotchman, from whom he learned the beginnings of Latin, Greek, French, and mathematics. With this master he remained until his fourteenth year, when death suddenly took away his father. He now left the school of the Scotchman, carrying with him memories of "mouldy pies and excellent instruction," and entered one kept